



## Archaeology News

### *- from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), office of the Indiana State Archaeologist*

- **Indiana Archaeology Award-** This year the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology was pleased to present the 2004 Indiana Archaeology Award to Anne Bader and the Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society. This award was given in recognition of Ms. Bader's coordination and accomplishment of archaeological investigations at a major prehistoric archaeological site which was discovered accidentally in Spencer County, Indiana.

Ms. Bader, the many archaeologists she coordinated with from numerous states, and the volunteers from the Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society accomplished great amounts of archaeological investigation, pro-bono, at this significant prehistoric archaeological and burial site. Their efforts exemplify the cooperation between professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists, and members of the public, which can occur when archaeological materials are uncovered accidentally. Ms. Bader, and those she organized, worked closely with the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to ensure that proper archaeological investigations were accomplished. Many volunteer hours were spent on weekends and at other times accomplishing important archaeological work.

Ms. Bader is a professional archaeologist currently working with AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., in Jeffersontown, KY where she directs a group of 22 archaeologists and historians. The Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society was formed in July 2002 and is designed to be inclusive of professionals, students, amateurs and collectors, and others. The geographic area of interest for this society encompasses the constricted Ohio River Valley region of north central Kentucky and southern Indiana within a one-hundred mile radius of Louisville.

State Archaeologist Dr. Jones (second from right) presented the Indiana Archaeology Award to Anne Bader (holding award) and members of the Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society. The award was presented at this year's Cornelius O'Brien-Indiana Main Street Conference in Madison, Indiana.



- **New DHPA Archaeological staff member-** The DHPA is proud to welcome archaeologist Christopher Koeppel to our team. Chris is a Ph.D. candidate from S.I.U. working on his dissertation. He has substantial experience in archaeological fieldwork, education, CRM, and has worked as an archaeologist for the state of Tennessee. Chris will be working on environmental review projects and conducting other archaeological duties. Please join us in welcoming him.
- **Archaeology Month 2004 Wrap-Up-** The Indiana Archaeology Month follow-up questionnaires have been mailed to all who organized and held events during the month, and those questionnaires have been coming back in to the DHPA. Once we have tallied all of the information, we'll provide a more detailed summary of how the many events went.  
Cathy Draeger shares the following regarding her first Indiana Archaeology Month as an archaeology staff member with the DHPA: "What was most memorable about Archaeology Month? For me, it would have to be seeing that spark of enthusiasm and wonderment. At one event, while a young boy and his mother screened for artifacts, he explained why one object was an artifact and one was just a "rock." Archaeology is a way to show science, art, history, and more to students of all ages. Parents and children can learn together. As an archaeology student, I spent my time writing papers, working, and trying to gain experience. As part of DHPA, I was able to become more involved with people, passing on my knowledge."
- **Summary from the Indiana Heritage Symposium-** The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology was proud to be one of the sponsors of Martin University's *Indiana Heritage Symposium: Indiana's African American Heritage and Archaeology* during Indiana Archaeology Month. Organizer Harry Murphy has provided the following summary information regarding the event.

The Indiana Heritage Symposium was conducted on Saturday, September 18, 2004. The objective of the symposium was to strengthen Indianapolis' communities and families through archaeological education. An informal and casual verbal survey was conducted to obtain some input and responses from the audience. In addition, subsequent comments and commentaries from individuals that attended all or part of the symposium have also provided a foundation for a general assessment of the symposium. Feedback from the scholars and educators that attended the symposium was very positive and highlighted the amount of information of which they had previously not been aware. The content of the symposium clearly bridged the gap between historian, archaeologist, and educator.

Dr. Stephen Vincent's introductory presentation set the stage for the following talks by providing a background on African American migration and settlement in Indiana. He included the results of his most recent research on the variety of groups and circumstances that surrounded the settlement of African American rural communities. Even for the scholar familiar with this history, Dr. Vincent presented new material and information.

Dr. Vincent's presentation was followed by Ms. Angie Krieger and Ms. Mary McCorvie's presentations. Both these presenters are National Forest archaeologists conducting investigations of rural African American settlements located on forest properties. Ms. Krieger conducts research on the 19<sup>th</sup> century Lick Creek settlement in the Hoosier National Forest, Orange County, Indiana. Ms. McCorvie conducts research on a 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement in the Shawnee

National Forest in southern Illinois. These presentations were wonderful alone, but following on the heels of Dr. Vincent's introduction the transition in content was perfect, and did not go unnoticed by neither the academics nor educators that were present. The teachers in the audience were particularly interested in how Mary McCorvie linked archaeology with the traditional African American *griot* story telling. The impression was given that these educators had the intent of utilizing a similar technique in their classrooms.

Mr. Harry Murphy's and Dr. Brian Steuerwald's presentations focused on the present and potential research contributions resulting from the archaeological investigations of the Martin University Next Step Education through Archaeology Project. Though both presentations highlighted the educational value of archaeology as a tool to provide students with academic skills, the preponderance of the content of these presentations addressed academic interest. Murphy's presentation on the Next Step Education through Archaeology Project highlight archaeological contributions to the prehistoric and historic records of Marion County, Indiana, as well as technical results concerning archaeological methods that is of interest to the professional archaeologist. Dr. Steuerwald ventured into the unexplored area of determining the psychology of the early settlers in central Indiana. The Martin University students' research that Dr. Streuerwald was summarizing breached the controversial "Turner Thesis" and its applicability to understanding the African American settler. Like Dr. Vincent's content this did not go unnoticed by academics present in the audience.

Dr. Paul Mullin's presentation on Indianapolis' 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century African American Ransom Place community provided the capstone for the afternoon presentations. Several individuals within the audience either had a personal experience, or a genealogical connection with the Ransom Place community. Through his focus on modern urban renewal of the Ransom Place district and the loss of the archaeological record provided a real life link between the past and the present. There were numerous positive and inquisitive comments on this particular presentation.

Dr. Theresa Singleton's keynote presentation provided the audience with a wider scope on archaeological resources, the value of archaeological education, and the impact on the public, particularly through tourism. Dr. Singleton was present throughout the whole of the symposium and as a result was able to shape her presentation to highlight Indiana's resources. Though her specific topic involved archaeological tourism on the southeastern seaboard of the United States, the parallels between these resources and Indiana's, and how they were or were not being utilized were clear. The reception that immediately followed Dr. Singleton's presentation was an educational experience in and of itself. If one example had to be selected to demonstrate the interaction between members of the Indianapolis communities and academics, the reception would have to be it. The conversations were lively, engaging, fun, and all focused on how cultural traditions contribute to our lives and communities. The evening keynote presentation had an attendance of approximately 75 persons. It was very gratifying to see representatives from all the major universities in the central Indiana area present. In addition, without identifying any specific individual several distinguished scholars and institutional representatives were present for part or the whole of the event. Most importantly, several of the high school students from the Martin University field school and several families were in attendance.

The symposium was judged to have been a success. Father Boniface Hardin, President of Martin University, was present throughout the whole of the symposium and was impressed by the content of the presentations. It is of interest to note that each presenter was pleased with the number of individuals in the audience. Each commented on how they rarely have an audience this size. They were particularly pleased to see families and younger students attending.

Martin University wishes to express its appreciation for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology support of this event.

This information is distributed via email by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA). This is meant to provide information on current archaeological topics and issues in which the DHPA is involved. An archive of past *Archaeology News* issues is available at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/archeonwsltr.html>. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office at 317/232-1646.



Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 402 W. Washington St., Room W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739. [www.IN.gov/dnr/historic](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/historic)

Indiana Archaeology Month (September) webpage-  
[www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/archeomonth.html](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/historic/archeomonth.html)

Compiled (November 2004) by Amy Johnson, Research Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator. Thanks go to Harry Murphy, Martin University, for providing the summary information regarding the Indiana Heritage Symposium. Thank you also to Cathy Draeger for her insights into Archaeology Month.